

Dear Paul,

11/23/74

I have had no reports from San Francisco, except that I made an impromptu broadcast on KGBN by the time I had my topcoat off after returning from Washington after dark yesterday. (Followed immediately by one to KNAC, Los Angeles before I could eat.)

What I had planned with the Washington Post did work. They had a decent story. For them a fine one. They also syndicated it. AP had what for it on this subject is an exceptionally good story. I have the wire copy and will be giving it to Jim. This P.M. I heard excitedly from Ben Freed on the play in the L.A. Times. Jim has heard of the use of both AP and WP stories elsewhere. And there are other things.

The persisting ~~problem~~^{grawling} ~~problem~~ cut off here. In two weeks the NYTimes reporter who was to have done a story had not, as of a few minutes ago, received his copy. When he can, which will not be for at least two weeks, he will see if he can arrange the FBI aspect from what Jim wrote for the Sunday magazine.

There has been and there will be further radio usages. By this I mean more than mention. Plus the probability of TV in NYCity.

The possibilities of ancillary sales are not yet exhausted. Jim yesterday heard my improvisation when the opportunity could be seized. He can tell you that it was entirely impromptu. I did it in his home and he is to make the delivery. We also are still awaiting word from a net whose proper person was not available yesterday.

Now the Post's and AP's uses have not foreclosed either that by the Star or by UPI. I have connections at both places and Jim hears me speak to them after both Post and AP stories were out.

In short, we have reached a very large audience. Believe me or not, any mention in the minor press would have made this impossible.

More, even Rolling Stone may yet do something. And other efforts are not yet even really discouraging.

My purpose is a combination of reporting and reassuring. We have reached millions more people than you dreamed of, we may yet reach even more and as I hope you will permit yourself to see, I did know what I was doing, correctly estimated its prospects, and if you want to look at it a different way, despite all the other work and problems, have delivered. I really do expect much more attention if I can maintain some element of control and can give the word I can keep. Being able to deal with certainty is an essential, an indispensable.

By far the strongest story yet is in a Bircher paper whose editor is a friend.

Many other serious problems of which you have no way of knowing do intrude. If I had not had to waste so much time in the past, on this and on other matters of which Jim knows, I might have attempted more. And with prospect of success. I will yet, as I can, make what efforts I can. I do have other assurances, but they do also require not being able to promise and keep promises. Jim knows that once the probabilities of net TV diminished I started working on independent production. He was there.

What appears where we'll never know. The Post did hit the prime audience for us. AP's typescript is actually two feet long. Getting around the Post's hangups and prejudices was, I hope you can see, neither easy nor without values. Once this was done syndication was more prebable. Without first knowing the realities and then seeing how to cope with them and then knowing the right people it could not have been. So, I do hope you can convince yourself that I did know what I was doing and that the initial attention, which could have been ruined by minor attention, greatly exceeds the attention you had in mind if you had been able to publish in all these you approached.

Aside from those who subscribe to AP, about 100 radio stations have received copy. I'd be surprised if most of them do not use it. AP did have the story on both its "A" or major wire and on its radio wire. Aside from the nets, which I have no reason to believe have not fed this to TV audiences, there is little doubt that many local stations have used the story on TV.

Off the top of the tired head, this is the positive. It would not have been possible had a minor journal made first use. Thanks.

There is what was and I hope now will not be negative. You were not aware of it but Rolling Stone planned a very, very bad story, all nut stuff. I do have excellent reason to believe that this is ended. I can't say what they will do, but I really don't believe that they have the insanity in mind any more. This also took effort.

I can't take time for details but I have made what I hope is the beginning of a real dent in the "underground" media. And I do have reason to believe that there will be more of this. One benefit could be diminishing if not entirely ending the crazy stuff that is fed to the anxious young. If you want a measure of the impact, the man who actually runs the country's largest publishing house and won't touch this subject except in support of official mythology - in fact, provided the State of Tennessee with its publishing expert against us - gave a copy of one favorable story to a subordinate he knows is a friend of mine with a note to please send it to me. It came today.

Don't expect magic. The world has not changed. But I think it is a long time since you saw as much or as decent attention to what we want heard. It can't be done beginning at the bottom and it can't be done except with control. And when this much attention has not ended the possibilities, as Jim again can tell you, I do hope you can see that in addition to control there must be a certain amount of planning to make continuation possible. What I am certain of that is in the near future is more middle-America attention, in Chicago and Kansas City, Mo., each with a larger audience than any of these you had in mind.

Think what you will of me, but please do learn from this. I have delivered, despite serious problems. Please accept this as some reason to believe that in this area I have some understanding of what I do and what has to be done and how it might be done. All this, I remind you, with no budget for even phone calls. This inhibition makes the effort very difficult and any intrusion into it more costly when measured ^{against} what else might be done with that time.

If I can I'll continue to keep you posted. Jim now has even more to do because Bud is consistent. As he went on vacation when all the initial work was to be done he also just left DC through the entire period of the preparation of the papers that must be received by the court by 12/2, followed by two more tough weeks, followed by just beginning to catch up.

Sincerely,